THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is always a loose and vague complaint about every section of employees, whether it is drivers or Government servants or Ministers or legislators.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Why do you club yourself with drivers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : These vague complaints are always heard. I do not think we should make it a point to bring it to the legislature unless there are specific cases.

Central Medical Stores, Madras

* 327 *Q.*—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that medicine was not supplied to the local fund hospitals in Tiruchirappalli district for the last six months from the Central Medical Stores, Madras; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) & (*b*) The supplies have since been made.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : *எத்தனை மாதங்கள் இந்த மருந்துகள் கொடுக்கப்படாமல் இருந்தன என்று மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா ?*

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Only a few months. For instance, I may give the case of the local fund dispensary at Arambavoor. They put in an indent on the 28th August 1960. That was returned for rectification of certain mistakes, and for furnishing more particulars. That was returned only in August 1961, after about a year. That is the solitary case where there was delay. In other cases, it is only a question of a few months. In cases where medicine is required urgently, the officers have the discretion to get quotations from reputable local firms and purchase the medicine.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the amount fixed for purchase of medicines for the local fund dispensaries has been raised recently?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I want notice about it. But I find here that some of the local fund dispensaries have purchased medicines for Rs. 2,200, Rs. 2,500, Rs. 2,700, Rs. 1,900 and in one case, Turaiyur, they have purchased for Rs. 3,000.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : *சென்ட்ரல் மெடிகல் ஸ்டோரில் ஸ்டாக் இல்லை என்ற காரணத்தால், இந்த டிஸ்பென்சரிகளுக்கு மருந்து சப்ளை சரியாக செய்யப்படவில்லை என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா ?*

1st September 1961]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : அது ஒரு காலத்தில் அப்படி இருந்தது. அதையெல்லாம் திருத்தி அமைக்கவேண்டு மென்று கருதி, இப்போது கூடுமான வரையில் கிடைக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் வைத்திருக்கிறோம்.

Utilisation of the waters of Siruvani river

* 328 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any agreement has been entered into with the Kerala Government about the utilisation of the waters of Siruvani river in Coimbatore district and, if so, the terms thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No, Sir.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Did this Government approach the Kerala Government to allow our Government to draw more water?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir, it is now a matter for delicate (An hon. Member : handling) negotiation This was even taken up in the Southern Zonal Council meeting. They have left it to the Chief Ministers of the two Staes to discuss about it and come to a decision.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know at what stage the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not exactly know at what stage both these Chief Ministers are about the talks. But there was a first approach and then I understand that the other Chief Minister had to get information from his Government. They will meet again and discuss and come to a decision.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, Coimbatore is getting only intermittent supply of water. The city is growing rapidly and the population is also increasing. May I know what other source there is for the Government to meet the needs of the people of Coimbatore regarding drinking water?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think the only source is Siruvani from where we can tap water. I saw some reports; they are only reports. From them I glean that they object to water being used for irrigation. They are not objecting to water being taken for drinking purposes. So, after the two Chief Ministers discuss it, they will come to a happy conclusion.

Resignation of doctors

* 329 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of doctors in the Madras Medical Service who resigned from service from 1st June 1959 to 31st January 1961? 3-10 p.m.